

In the Claims

Claims 1 to 33 (Cancelled)

Claim 34 (New): An isolated vCOL16A1 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 58.

Claim 35 (New): The polypeptide of Claim 34, wherein said polypeptide consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 58.

Claim 36 (New): An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the human cDNA of deposited clone 625004_188-15-4-0-II6-1' in ATCC accession number PTA-2534.

Claim 37 (New): A polypeptide fragment of SEQ ID NO: 58, wherein said fragment comprises at least six consecutive amino acids and spans positions 97 through 98 of SEQ ID NO:58.

Claim 38 (New): The polypeptide of claim 34, wherein said polypeptide is a component of connective tissue.

Claim 39 (New): The polypeptide of claim 36, wherein said polypeptide is a component of connective tissue.

Claim 40 (New): The polypeptide of claim 37, wherein said polypeptide is a component of connective tissue.

Claim 41 (New): An allelic variant of the polypeptide of claim 34.

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Claim 42 (New): An allelic variant of the polypeptide of claim 36.

Claim 43 (New): An allelic variant of the polypeptide of claim 37.

Claim 44 (New): An isolated polypeptide having at least 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identity to the polypeptide of claim 34.

Claim 45 (New): An isolated polypeptide having at least 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identity to the polypeptide of claim 36.

Claim 46 (New): An isolated polypeptide having at least 90%, 95%, 96%, 97%, 98% or 99% identity to the polypeptide of claim 37.

Claim 47 (New): A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 34 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

Claim 48 (New): A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 36 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

Claim 49 (New): A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 37 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.